

Planning & Development

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City sustainability

Submitted by [David Beach](#) | Last edited March 15, 2010 - 4:16pm

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On May 26, 2005, then-Cleveland Mayor Jane Campbell introduced [Andrew Watterson](#) as the city's first sustainability programs manager. Watterson is a native of Greater Cleveland and has experience constructing green buildings, including the Cleveland Environmental Center.

The City of Cleveland's Sustainability Programs Manager will help the city develop innovative, environmentally friendly ways for the city to save money, lessen its ecological footprint and improve public health. Watterson is housed in the Department of Public Utilities, and will work with all city departments, City Council, and partners in the community to create interdisciplinary programs to make Cleveland a greener, healthier and more prosperous city.

"Through sustainability principles, the city can be more efficient and effective at delivering quality service to residents and helping shape Cleveland's future," Watterson says.

Watterson adds that the goals of the sustainability program also include introducing sustainability principles to city employees and to instill a sustainability culture through education.

Progress as of August 2006 (information provided by the Sustainability Program)

Fleets

Anti-Idling Policy:

Idling creates pollution and wastes valuable resources. An anti-idling policy (introduced in June 2006) mandates city employees to turn off their vehicles to save money and reduce emissions. With a fleet of 4,900 vehicles and \$5.4 million annual gas and diesel bills, the city hopes the new anti-idling policy will save hundreds of thousands of dollars a year.

Hybrid Vehicles:

Muni-owned Cleveland Public Power has purchased eight hybrid vehicles that save on fuel and help to protect the environment. The city will continue to purchase hybrid vehicles when possible.

Energy

Renewable Energy:

The City of Cleveland is seeking renewable and sustainable energy options as part of an economical and robust electrical infrastructure.

Wind Power:

The 2-year wind monitoring project is continuing on the water intake Crib located in Lake Erie. For [more information](#). Wind power is clean, renewable, and free.

Procurement/Purchasing

Develop policies to encourage the purchase of:

- Regional products
- Recycled products

Upcoming Events

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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- [Products that conserve energy](#)
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Health and Environment

Planning and Leadership Roles:

- [Air quality](#)
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- [Storm water management](#)
- [Green space](#)
- [Transportation options](#)

Recycling:

- [Commercial recycling](#)
- [26 recycling drop off centers](#)
- [Yard waste pick up](#)

Construction Waste Management:

The Cleveland Division of Water now requires all contractors to divert 50% of C&D waste generated on projects from landfills.

- [Saves space in landfills](#)
- [Provides materials for manufacturers](#)
- [Recycles building materials](#)

Help set the agenda for the city's sustainability manager: What should be the priorities in making Cleveland greener, healthier and more prosperous? Leave a comment.

To contact [Andrew Watterson](#) or call 216-664-2444 xt. 5582; to reach his assistant [Philena Seldon](#) xt. 5586.

Resources

Cleveland Green Building Standard [Handbook](#) (released February 2009)

"Connecting Cleveland: 2020 [Citywide Plan](#)" includes sustainability

[Green-collar jobs for urban America](#)

[Why green urbanism makes sense](#) for Cleveland

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November 4, 2007 - 10:57am

did our region's mayors attend?

Susan Miller says:
[Mayors, Looking to Cities' Future, Are Told It Must Be Colored Green](#)

"Mayors, heard a clear message: Cities that are "walkable," workable and livable add up to the "s" word: sustainable. Cities that are centered on people and public transit, not cars, and built to higher standards of energy efficiency will save money, hum with new development and create jobs to suit a greener way of life."

A few of our local mayor's signed the climate protection agreement, but I have not heard of any planning to achieve specific goals. Have you?

When I was growing up in an even more racially divided world, we referred to people as black, white, yellow, brown and some were heard to say, "I don't care if s/he is green, if s/he will provide safety and stability..." Now we might all be looking for a green candidate. Back then (when we were going to the moon) they were probably referring to an imagined Martian and now they mean some on who would use the concepts sustainability to address our concerns. Back then the "s" word meant something distasteful. Now we know that [waste can equal wealth](#).

What's you Mayor up to in this regard?

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October 12, 2006 - 1:25pm

Recycle at airport?

Ruth Anna Carlson says:

Just returned from a trip to Chicago. O'Hare Airport is full of re-cycle bins, for newspaper and also plastic and glass. These send a very strong positive message! Please consider (for Cleveland) and make this happen. I've suggested before and the response was positive but no action!

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October 25, 2006 - 6:11pm

recycle at airport for sure

Susan Miller says:

I, too, have been traveling lately via airports. The recycle bins could be used specifically right at the entry to the security check. I saw numerous folk discarding their single serving plastic water bottles as they entered the security check because they are not allowed to bring them on the planes now. In Chicago, I visited the show at their Museum of Contemporary Art which is currently focused on sustainability. There I discovered that 2.5 million of these bottles are thrown away every hour in the US. My son pointed out to the dean of his new college, that while the recycling bins are great, they need to be everywhere the waste receptacles are, so you don't have to go searching for them or vice versa. It is just horse sense. I always wonder who stations the new recycle bins in various public spaces. They often seem to be somewhere besides where the rubbish bin is...why is that? Anyway... good suggestion. I second that one.

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April 29, 2006 - 12:12pm

stormwater regionalism

Susan Miller says:

I know I could have put this in the CSO section, but I think that after speaking with Andrew Watterston following his recent presentation, it belongs here. Watterston addressed a group of AIA members at Strosacker Auditorium where he spoke about onsite stormwater management along with other sustainability issues he is working on for the city.

Watterston said that despite the city's codes that require downspouts to be connected to storm sewers, his office has printed and distributes materials encouraging homeowners to disconnect their downspouts. Mayor Jackson talks about regionalism, and I see this disconnection agenda as a way for him to move that idea forward with cooperation not only from local municipal officials, but with the citizenry of the region.

I understand from speaking with Genevieve Ray that a pilot disconnection was part of the Doan Brook Watershed Study, and it produced negligible results, but it was apparently only one block of homes in Shaker Heights that experimented with the disconnect.

I believe that we could substantially reduce stormwater runoff and CSOs that run from outfalls along our river, lake and brooks in Northeast Ohio by encouraging downspout disconnects and educating the business sector and homeowners about onsite stormwater management. You can see where the outfalls are here: <http://www.neorsd.org/cmweb/detail/51/NEORS-DSO-Locations.pdf>

Codes need to be reviewed and updated. A great example is the code in Cleveland Heights that does not allow a homeowner who purchases a home that has asphalt or cement driveway to return it to gravel or use pavers. This sort of thinking needs to be reconsidered. It seems to me that less water in the sewer system might reduce the volume that NEORS has to treat. On rainy days, when the storm sewers are full, reducing the volume should reduce the scouring effects on brooks. Ultimately more water being filtered by the soil means less being filtered by the NEORS. No? It works in most other cities. Why not here? Wasn't it our very own Burning River that inspired and leveraged the seeming toothless Clean Water Act?

Someone please explain why this widespread practice is still in effect in Northeast Ohio when it is illegal in many other US cities.

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